AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

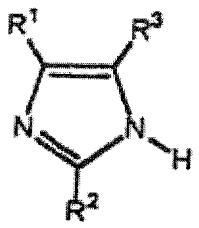
1. (currently amended) An acid-base mixture comprising:

a base component and an acid component, wherein:

at least one of the base component and the acid component ~~comprising~~ comprises at least two compounds,

the acid-base mixture is ion conductive, and

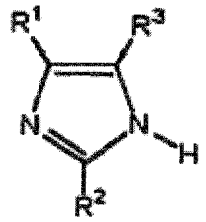
the base component ~~comprising at least one compound~~comprises a base represented by chemical formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1, R^2, and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, provided that at least one of them is a hydrocarbon group.

2. (currently amended) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein the base component comprises ~~at least one compound~~a base represented by chemical formula (2):



(2)

wherein R^1, R^2, and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, provided that R^1 and R^3 are different.

3. (currently amended) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, having a melting point of 120°C or lower or ~~substantially~~ no melting point.

4. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being an equimolar mixture of the base component and the acid component.

5. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being liquid at room temperature.

6. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the base components comprises 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole.

7. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the base components comprises 4-methylimidazole.

8. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the base components comprises 2-ethylimidazole.

9. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises an acid structurally free from a fluorine atom.

10. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises an inorganic acid.

11. (original) The acid-base mixture according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid.

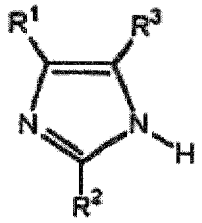
12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being proton conductive.

14. (currently amended) An ion conductor comprising:

an acid-base mixture comprising a base component and an acid component,

the base component ~~comprising~~ comprises a base represented by chemical formula (2):



wherein R^1, R^2, and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, provided that R^1 and R^3 are different, and

said ion conductor has a melting point of 120°C or lower or no melting point, and a glass transition temperature of 25°C or lower.

15. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein R^1 in chemical formula (2) is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

16. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 15, wherein R^1 in chemical formula (2) is a methyl group.

17. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 15, wherein R^2 in chemical formula (2) is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

18. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 17, wherein R^2 in chemical formula (2) is an ethyl group.

19. (previously presented) The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein R^3 in chemical formula (2) is a hydrogen atom.

20. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the base component is 4-methylimidazole.

21. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the base component is 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole.

22. (previously presented) The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the acid component is an acid structurally free from a fluorine atom.

23. (previously presented) The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the acid component is an inorganic acid.

24. (original) The ion conductor according to claim 23, wherein the inorganic acid is sulfuric acid.

25. (previously presented) The ion conductor according to claim 14, being a proton conductor.